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THE LADY IN THE WEST.

(A BALLAD.)

THERE was a lady lived in the West,
Whose age was scarcely twenty,
And she had suitors of the best,
Both lords and squires plenty.

And she had suitors of the best,
Who daily waited upon her,
But her father's clerk she would adore,
Above those men of honor.

Her father unto her he did say,
"You fond and foolish creature,
To marry with your servant slave,
So mean of form and feature.

"So mean a portion shall you have,
If this is your proceeding,
To marry with your servant slave,
So mean of birth and breeding."

"It must be so, it shall be so,
Although I have offended,
For when I break a solemn vow,
Then let my life be ended."

There being a table in the room,
A pistol on it lying,
He instantly all in rage,
The very same let flying.

All at his youthful daughter's breast,
Who fell down dead before him,
The very last word she did express,
"I must and will adore him."

Sung in Massachusetts, before 1800.

Mrs. E. Allen, West Newton, Mass.